

Mendocino Council of Governments

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January 14, 2005

Ms. Paula Higashi, Executive Director
Commission on State Mandates
980 9th Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Case No. 04-RL-3929-05

Dear Ms. Higashi:

The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) is the regional transportation planning agency for Mendocino County. It was created by a joint powers agreement in 1972 entered into by the cities of Point Arena, Willits, Fort Bragg, and Ukiah with the County of Mendocino. Specific powers of this agency are limited to transportation planning and economic development. MCOG has no land use, housing, taxing, or fee collecting authority.

I can state with a reasonable degree of certainty that the Mendocino Council of Governments has no interest in conducting periodic regional housing needs allocation plans for Mendocino County. It is not within the scope of this agency, we do not apply the resultant product, nor do we retain the expertise necessary to carry out this effort. We do it only because it is required by State law. **It is a state mandate.**

I have read the Rebuttal Brief prepared by Karen Tachiki, Chief Counsel of SCAG and Patricia J. Chen, Fulbright & Jaworski, on this issue. I thoroughly agree with the argument that has been presented as well as the stated conclusion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Phillip J. Dow".

Phillip J. Dow, P.E.
Executive Director